

AROMATIC SULFONE HYDROXAMIC ACIDS  
AND THEIR USE AS PROTEASE INHIBITORS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5           This invention is directed to aromatic sulfone hydroxamates (also known as  
aromatic sulfone hydroxamic acids) and salts thereof that, *inter alia*, tend to inhibit  
matrix metalloproteinase (also known as matrix metalloprotease or MMP) activity  
and/or aggrecanase activity. This invention also is directed to a treatment method  
that comprises administering such a compound or salt in an MMP-inhibiting and/or  
10   aggrecanase-inhibiting effective amount to an animal, particularly a mammal  
having (or disposed to having) a pathological condition associated with MMP  
activity and/or aggrecanase activity.